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LETTER DATED 28 JANUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BELARUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus following the air strikes by the Air Force of the United States of America directed against the territory of Iraq on 25 January 1999.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alyaksandr SYCHOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Belarus to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus expresses deep concern in connection with the air strikes by the United States of America on facilities in the area of Basra in Iraq which claimed innocent victims.

The systematic and provocative use by the United States of America of military force against a sovereign State without appropriate sanctions by the Security Council constitutes a gross violation of the Charter of the United Nations. Civilian casualties are the natural outcome of such a policy.

The Republic of Belarus reaffirms its position regarding the need to cease military strikes against Iraq at once and urgently to seek a solution to the Iraqi crisis through diplomatic means within the framework of the Security Council on the basis of strict compliance by all sides with its decisions.